

Gatton Park, Reigate

Mon. Sep 24

My dear Mother

1845

I always mean to write you
an account of the places where
I am sojourning as I know it
entertains you - This is by
far the most delightful &
interesting to me, more particularly
as I am engaged in painting two
large fresco pictures, in many
respects the most important
works I have ever done as
they ^{are} the first examples ^{in England} of
Architecture being decorated
with pictures in this style

It also as it is the first real opportunity I have ever had of producing such things -
The Countess of Warwick is her liberal patroness, & lives I have 5 months in the year - she received as a gift from her son the late Lord Monson who died at the early age of 25 - in year 1841 - He had partly built this magnificent Hall in imitation of a fine building at Rome & the building has remained unfinished ever since. - (Or rather the great German painter was to have done what I am now doing

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Sp - but L^d M^rson dying changed
the plan & so it has remained
until Providence so kindly
has placed it in my hands that
I may distinguish myself &
get ample employment in
this my favorite way - Lord
& Lady Warwick are very kind
to me & altho I am a stranger
to them with a monk since
yet I am treated as a dear
friend - There are no bounds
to the praises they bestow
on my progressing work
even from the first outlines
This place is all beautiful
up & down, with fine trees
& beautiful hills - It is just
19 miles from London

The air is most delicious & I
recovering fast in it, that is
I am able to work at my
beloved painting which I
know will soon make me well
We breakfast at 9 - lunch at 12
part (which is a fine dinner)
& then dine at 7 - I hand in
the Countess every day - There
is a fine library, even of Music
& both piano forte & Organ in
fact I am in paradise here
I have a clever man who
preparates my piano ground &c
to whom I pay 2 £ a week
then I have 12 other men at
work in ornamenting the hall
Good bye my dear mother when
I come to town which will be
Saturday or Sunday I shall come &
yours & yours ever loving son Joseph